

RICHMOND REMINISCENCES.

By Rev. R. B. Berkeley.

When a mere lad I made my first visit to Richmond. The old Southside Railroad had not then been pushed to Farmville, so I drove through the country to take the "Richmond and Danville" at Burkeville, and I can never forget the impression upon my boy mind as I stood on the platform and watched the little train puffing and pulling up to the depot. The smokestack, nowadays not much larger than the ordinary stovepipe, looked like a moving house, with a placid, placid throat emitted burning sparks of pine, large and luminous. The coach I entered was cramped and low, hardly allowing a six-footer to stand erect, and the seats were as hard as the benches of the schoolrooms of that day. I do not just recall how often the train stopped between Burkeville and Richmond to take on pine wood with which to feed the engine, nor just how long it took the lazy throwers to fill the tender. The rails were of bars of iron nailed to parallel wooden stringers, and it was from starting on a jolt on reaching Richmond, I was landed at a small wooden depot at the end of the bridge spanning the James, and as the train stopped bedlam broke loose. The lusty lungs of porters and porters gave out vigorous sounds and discordant notes. I yielded, however, to the persuasions of the porter of the "Old Columbian," a famous host of that day, located on Cary Street, and, as I remember, about Twelfth. Memory fails to revive much of the building or its environments, but I can never forget the dining-room. As I entered it, I found long tables, stretched from end to end of the spacious room, and literally groaning beneath the weight of creature comforts. Huge dishes of cold ham, barbecued lamb, Brunswick stew, fried chicken, with the regulation brown, "pies and things." The genuine Jackson watermelon cut into fancy shapes, stood on their ends in the center, and as I gazed upon the red and tempting meat, my heart felt a thrill of joy. I have been to Richmond often since, and sat at many tables, and gathered with guests around the capital city and registered at the Exchange, which had then been connected with the Ballard House by a bridge. The late Colonel Carrington, "mine host," preposterous and princely, was in command, and never under a hotel roof gathered more of the beauty and chivalry of Virginia. Some ready and gifted writer should put on record the history of those married hostesses. I refrain from the task and content myself with giving one ludicrous incident from a supper scene, the dining-room then being in the Ballard House, the custom being to have the dining-rooms from time to time. I sat at the table with a number of young Democrats from this section of the State, who were there attending a convention of the party. Among the number was a brilliant young lawyer from the County of Charlotte, who, when he tackled the beefsteak, experienced some difficulty in cutting it with a silver knife. Colonel Carrington was in the room at the time, as was his custom, and the guests were properly and promptly waited upon. The embryo politician, seeing him standing some distance from the table at which he sat, called to him loudly to come to his aid. The dignified and courtly colonel responded at once, and was shocked when the young man said to him, so that others could hear, "Colonel, if you'll have this beefsteak sawed into convenient shapes, I think I can 'caw' it, but I will be damned if I can cut it with this here knife." The colonel laughed, but the laugh was on, and he had to take his medicine.

Another political incident, immensely ludicrous at the time, has lost none of its uniqueness with me as the days have come and gone. Two political conventions were in session in the city at the time and representatives of the opposing parties met in an all-night saloon near the Exchange. In the early hours of the morning the Republican meant to back up the Democrat and predicted sweeping victory for his party and added, "I am ready to back my judgment with the

transactions of his favorite, Nell Gwyn (through him the ancestress of the Dukes of St. Albans), of his cousin, Prince Rupert, son of the King and Queen of Bohemia, and of the immortal Popsy.

OGDEN MILLS LEAVES PICTURESCUE SEAT

New Yorker Has Taken Famous Theobald's Park, Near London.

BY LA MARQUEE DE FORTENY.
MRS. and Mrs. Ogden Mills, of New York, may be congratulated on securing through lease from Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux, possessor of Theobald's Park, one of the most picturesque and interesting country seats within easy motoring distance of London. It is situated on the borders of Hertford and Essex, was a favorite shooting lodge of James I., the estate even to this day swarming with game, especially pheasants, while the scenery is of the most picturesque and contrived character. The house standing on the site and foundations of King James's Palace, is comparatively modern, of red brick, devoid of any architectural pretensions, but is extremely comfortable and up-to-date in every respect, with fine stables, large garages, Turkish baths, real tennis courts, etc. A description of the old royal palace will be found in "The Fortunes of Nigel" by Walter Scott, and many of the relics of the old palace are still preserved in the more modern mansion.

The feature of the property, however, is old Temple Bar, which forms the entrance to the park from the high road along which in former times the mail coaches used to ply between Cambridge and London. No one knows the exact age of this wonderful old gate, which figured for so many hundred years at the Fleet Street and Strand entrance to the city of London. But it was already in existence in 1290.

It is built of Portland stone, the gray tint of which was changed into a dull, drab black by London smoke and grime. Composed of a large central arch for vehicular traffic, and two small arches on either side for foot passengers, it was damaged by the great fire of London in 1666, and was rebuilt four years later with the utmost care, and with the original material, and according to the original design, by Sir Christopher Wren. In niches over the central gate he, however, placed statues of Charles I. and Charles II. In the garb of Roman Senators, and of James I. and Queen Elizabeth.

From the time of its reconstruction, in accordance with the original design, until 1877, the large room over the central arch was rented by the city to Messrs. Child, the famous bankers, whose offices adjoined Temple Bar, and who used it as a store room for their old accounts. There it was that were preserved until 1877 the private account books of Charles II., as well as ledgers which told of

the transactions of his favorite, Nell Gwyn (through him the ancestress of the Dukes of St. Albans), of his cousin, Prince Rupert, son of the King and Queen of Bohemia, and of the immortal Popsy.

When Temple Bar was torn down in 1877, in order to meet the needs of increasing traffic, and to admit of easier access to the new law courts, the stone statues and gates were purchased by the late Sir Henry Meux, owner of the famous Meux brewery. He had each stone carefully numbered, and then caused them all to be conveyed to his country place, Theobald's Park, and the gate reconstructed in its exact original form at the main entrance to his property. Set off by the grand old trees around it and by its background of verdure, it is seen to infinitely greater advantage than when in the Strand. But one looks in vain for the spikes above the central arch, on which the heads of decapitated traitors were exhibited, until a gas and weather caused them to fall from the iron bars by which they had been held aloft.

Talking of the late Lady Meux, one of the heads of decapitated traitors of resemblance between her will and that of Sir John Murray Scott, which has been the subject of so sensational a lawsuit between his brothers and sisters, and Lord and Lady Sackville. As in the case of Sir John Murray

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2. And it points out to you ten of those seventy-seven correct titles.
3. Which really leaves you only sixty-seven titles for you to find by yourself.

Ever since the catalogue went on sale three days ago, contestants have been telephoning, asking and writing the question:

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For three days that has been a mystery. But here's the answer to that question:

The ten stars indicate ten correct book titles—ten book titles which ten of the contest pictures were drawn to represent.

Of course, all the seventy-seven correct book titles are contained in the catalogue, somewhere among the 600 book titles. But only ten of them are shown for you. The other sixty-seven you will have to find for yourself.

You will not be told whether or not any of the pictures which represent the ten starred titles have appeared as yet. Perhaps one or two of them have. Perhaps not. Just go over the catalogue and make a list of the ten starred titles. Then compare this list with the eight pictures published thus far. Any of the pictures fit any of the starred titles?

The catalogue is a list of 600 book titles, arranged in alphabetical order. From this list the seventy-seven titles to be represented by the seventy-seven contest pictures were selected. Then the seventy-seven pictures were drawn to represent the seventy-seven chosen titles.

And ten of the seventy-seven titles were marked by having stars set opposite them in the catalogue.

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Scott, Lady Meux left the bulk of her property to people who were in no way related to her, and like him too, was constantly during the last ten years of her life threatening expectant legacies to out them out of her will. Thus, she left Theobald's Park, her superb jewels, and the bulk of her property to Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton, the sailor brother of Lord Burham, who had played so notable a role in the defense of Ladysmith during the Boer War, stipulating, however, that he should adopt the name and arms of Meux in lieu of the historic name of Lambton. She scarcely knew him, and the bequest was more in token of admiration for his services to Ladysmith, and of a mere chance piece of gracious civility on the part of his wife, who was the widow of the late Viscount Chelsea.

At one time Lady Meux, who had been a music hall divette prior to her marriage, had decided to bequeath all her property to the Earl of Essex, who was the nearest living relative of her husband, and in those days she bestowed some valuable pecuniary gifts on his American wife, who was Miss Adele Grant, of New York; gifts amounting all told to about \$100,000. But Lady Essex did something to offend her, and accordingly Lord Essex was cut off with a legacy of under \$15,000.

At another moment Lady Meux had promised to bequeath everything to Mrs. Hwfa Williams, wife of the principal proprietor and creator of the Sandown Park race course, and aunt of Mrs. Benjamin Guinness, of New York. But Mrs. Hwfa Williams offended her, and in consequence thereof got a legacy of only \$20,000.

At still another period of her existence, Lady Meux had named Cicely Gordon as the sole heiress of all her great wealth. Cicely Gordon was the daughter of that American-born Lady Granville Gordon who created so great a sensation by abducting her own child, disguised as a boy, to France, when the divorce court of London ordered her to surrender the girl to her first husband, Eric Christian Gordon, who had divorced her, naming his cousin, Lord Granville Gordon, as correspondent. Cicely Gordon apparently did nothing to forfeit Lady Meux's affection. But when Lady Meux's will was opened, it was found that Cicely had been cut off with an annuity of \$1,000 a year.

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, who merely had a bowing acquaintance with the late Lady Meux, received from her the bequest of the sword worn by Admiral Lord Nelson at the battle of the Nile and at the battle of Trafalgar; while the famous necklace given by Nelson to the notorious Emma, Lady Hamilton, favorite model of the painter Romney, and wife of the British envoy to the court of Naples at the beginning of the nineteenth century—a necklace consisting of three rows of large and perfect pearls, the clasp being a wonderful contrivance of sky-blue enamel set with diamonds, a miracle of the jeweler's art—was left by Lady Meux to the daughter of Lady Lambton by her first husband, Lord Chelsea.

Among the military and naval con- victs at Lewes, in Sussex, England,

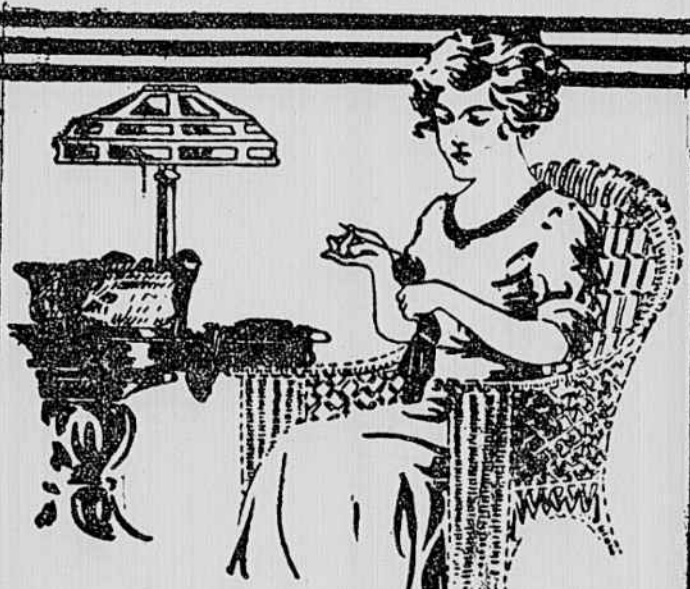
there are a dozen men who, no matter how excellent their conduct, will never recover their liberty, differing in this respect from the ordinary life- term convicts, who usually receive tickets of leave—that is to say, parole—after twenty-one years. One of the reasons for this is that they have been officially reported as dead. The worst of five officers and seven non-commissioned officers and privates, not of the regular army, nor even of the militia or yeomanry, but of the irregular forces, raised in South Africa during the Boer War thirteen years ago. They were caught aiding the enemy to smuggle ammunition through the British lines.

The sentence of the court-martial, condemning them to be shot, was com-

muted by Field Marshal Lord Roberts to life imprisonment. At the same time, he caused their names to be inserted in the official returns as having succumbed to enteric fever.

After Lord Roberts had turned over the command in chief to Kitchener, the latter had to deal with a batch of similar cases, three of the culprits being deserters who had been captured fighting in the Boer ranks. Kitchener was less merciful than Roberts. He confirmed the decree of the court-martial, and had them shot. That their relatives might be spared the odium of their disgrace, he caused their deaths to be officially reported as due to enteric fever.

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